

REMARKS

Amendments to the Claims

Upon entry of the present amendments, claims 1-30, 33-49, and 52-64 are pending. Accordingly, 60 claims, including five independent claims (*i.e.*, claims 1, 9, 10, 24 and 30) are pending. Claims 31, 32, 50 and 51 are cancelled without any intention to abandon any subject matter of these claims, but with the intention that claims of the same, lesser, or greater scope may be pursued in a later application.

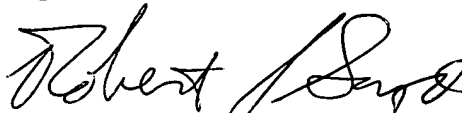
The dependency structure of claims 5-8, 13, 15, 16, 18, 19, 21-23, 26, 29, 30, 33, 35, 36, 38-42, 44, 45, and 49 have been changed to put them in singularly dependent format and to better conform with U.S. conventions for dependency format. Claim 37 is amended to remove an errant extra period.

New dependent claims were also added to recapture dependencies that were stripped as a result of the amendments described in the preceding paragraph. New Claim 52 corresponds with claim 13. New claims 53 and 54 correspond with claim 15. New claims 55 and 56 correspond with claim 19. New claims 57-59 correspond with claim 21. New claims 60-61 correspond to claim 23. New claims 62 and 63 correspond with claim 33. New claim 64 corresponds with claim 45. The present amendment does not introduce new matter.

CONCLUSION

Applicants respectfully request that the above amendments be entered and that the application receive favorable consideration in view thereof. If there are any questions regarding these amendments and remarks, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned at the telephone number provided below.

Respectfully submitted,



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